

HOBOKEN HISTORY

The image is a black and white reproduction of a mid-20th-century newspaper or magazine page dedicated to female wrestling. At the top, the words 'FEMALE WRESTLING' are printed in large, bold, blue-outlined letters. In the center, a woman with short dark hair, wearing a dark leotard with a butterfly pattern, is shown from the waist up, flexing her right arm. To the left of this central figure is a rectangular sign for a Saturday night match. It features the text 'SATURDAY NITE' at the top, followed by 'FEMALE WRESTLER' in large letters, and 'GRACE "Roughhouse" COSTELLO' below that. It also includes details about her age (20 years) and weight (140 pounds), stating she has 'DEFEATED ALL LOCAL TALENT THROUGHOUT JERSEY'. The sign lists 'JOHN FAZIO' as the opponent, described as the 'NATIONAL AMERICAN LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPION'. To the right of the central figure is another rectangular sign for a match. It reads 'Hoboken Girl Bids For Fame on Mat' at the top, followed by 'GRACE Costello, 19 Years Old, Makes Debut As "Pro" Wrestler Against Bessie Forbes'. This sign also includes a detailed paragraph about Grace Costello's background and her debut match. At the bottom of the page, the name 'GRACE "Roughhouse" COSTELLO' is prominently displayed in large, bold letters, along with smaller text about her return engagement and a mention of 'JAN FORTUNE AND HIS MILLION ARES'.

Issue No. 25 - 2000



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In this Issue...



Frederick Hauser (center left) is presented with a leather briefcase by the Hoboken Post American Legion 107 in honor of his service to the organization. Photo from January of 1948. See related story on page 16.

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From the scrapbook of Grace Costello

Eighty Years in School 10 *by Melvin Kiernan*

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GRACE "Roughhouse" COSTELLO

Hoboken's favorite women wrestler
was born Grace Cutillo on New Year's Day,
1919. She raised a son and a daughter -
Walter Kauger, Jr., and Valerie Kauger -
at 107 Harrison, in a house owned by
her father. She died on October
26, 1996, while residing at
Third and Grand. A
successful entrepreneur
and businesswoman, she
owned the Carlton Inn on Sixth
and Washington, Gracie's Lounge on
Observer Highway, and the Gold Key
Lounge in North Bergen. The germ
of her business career was, of
course, her earlier career as a
wrestler. That earlier career caused
her children, to whom we are
indebted for the material in this issue
about "Gracie," to dread the question,
"What does your mother do?" As
adults, they have grown more
sanguine about their mother's
talents and more admiring of her
abilities both in the ring and in
business.



Gracie "Roughhouse" Cutillo, in her late teens, used the ring name of Costello.

The Girls Play



Grace Costello
stands Lou on his
noggin—but hard



Mary Hill tossing heavyweight
Dode Gregory



Terry Tarantino slams Lou with
a "whip" throw

Rough House



By Georgette Meyer

If you should see a pretty girl walking down the street and feel inclined to get fresh with her—DON'T! She may be one of Lou Leonard's pupils and the best you will get for your efforts will be a broken bone or two.

Lou is devoting most of his time to making the female even more convincingly deadly than the male by teaching the helpless little creatures the lethal art of Judo.

Show girls are among the steadiest students Leonard has in his daily Judo classes at George Bothner's Gymnasium in New York. Hand-picked for beauty and personality, all of these kids are first class wolf bait. For most of them the working day ends in the middle of the night, for many in the rowdiest parts of town. You can readily see how handy an effective wrist lock or sure-fire trip would prove on occasion.

Also among female customers have been lady store detectives at Saks Fifth Avenue and Lord and Taylor, swank shops. Of course, Lou has instructed many men in the gentle art of subduing an opponent with practically no effort. Several Judo instructors at New York City's Police Academy owe their knowledge of the game to Leonard.

*Don't get tough
with Lou's girls*

Lou watching some of his pupils do their stuff



His "Shucks, anybody can play" attitude toward the effective sport that generally is considered only for the muscular brings results to big and little, strong and weak.

Lou is one of the few men in the United States who is entitled to wear the Fifth Degree black belt of Judo. Judo, it seems, is graded in nine degrees. Only one man, Dr. Jigoro Kano, who devised the method known as Judo, has ever achieved the Ninth Degree.

Dr. Kano, who was a member of the Japanese Olympic Association, is the man who incorporated all the best from other systems of Ju-Jitsu, called it Judo and finally convinced authorities in Japan that his was the perfect style.

Ju-Jitsu—and Judo is a form of that art—is derived from "Ju" to submit and "Jitsu," meaning science or art. Some form of Ju-Jitsu is believed to have been practised by the Samurais, Japan's war-

Leonard explains intricate hold to Nina Harris, left, Mary Hill, center, and Alice Renner



FROM THE SCRAPBOOK OF **GRACE COSTELLO**

rior class, as long as 2,000 years ago. Mythology ascribes its origin to the gods. Some historians have credited it to a Chinese. Whatever its origin, it cannot be denied that the Japanese developed it to the high form it has now achieved.

Leonard reached his high status in Judo in 1942, by passing a two-hour "working" examination in Philadelphia. During the examination, Lou had to prove that he knew all the defensive and offensive holds. The examination was conducted before Japanese representatives of the governing body, even though we were at war with Nippon at the time.

"In Judo, we didn't break off diplomatic relations," Lou says.

Not all of Lou's pupils, of course, use his instruction in their business. The wife of a prominent society man has studied with him for five years, "because it's given her such a nice figure." Another girl is a college student who is writing a thesis on why people fight. She does her non-academic research as one of Leonard's pupils.

Lou does not champion "his girls" as a matter of feminism. He simply likes to help people who think they are afraid of others. It may take as long as three months to work up a Caspar Milquetoast to the point where he will sass back at the boss, but when a pupil achieves that somewhat dubious distinction Lou is happy.

One of the best examples of the psychological effect of Lou's teachings is actor Broderick Crawford. Brod had never played an unsympathetic role in his entire career until Lou taught him Judo. Now Crawford is one of Hollywood's most sinister and well-paid make-believe tough guys.

Another Leonard pupil was a boy who had been discharged from the Army for combat fatigue so severe that it brought him a high disability allow-

ance. After Lou's training, the boy got a nice job and notified the Army to discontinue his disability allowance.

One of the regulars around Lou's place is a quiet little man who came to Leonard ten years ago and frankly admitted that he wanted to get even with his loud-mouthed, practical-joking brother-in-law. In a matter of months, he reported happily that he had been able to give the offensive relative his come-uppance, but was so fascinated with Judo that he has been a steady customer ever since.

Leonard dislikes talking about pupils in generalities, but does admit most female students have a few common problems. Most of them, for instance, are pretty nervous at the outset. Lou's strongest admonition to beginners is "Well, make an effort." Once the effort is made, the students usually lose their nervousness.

"A woman's sense of humor also is another problem," Lou confesses. "It makes them easier to have around, but they are inclined to laugh at their own failures, while a man will get mad at himself and try harder."

"Giving women confidence in themselves, after they have learned Judo, is another problem," Leonard says. "You can't expect women to go around knocking people down just to prove they know how to take care of themselves, but I do like to let them know they can handle almost any situation."

"I do that by having them appear as my partners in public demonstrations. Once a woman realizes she is regarded as an expert she generally becomes confident—and that's the final goal of the whole business."

In the meantime, don't whistle at Lou's girls—even the ones that haven't yet gained complete self-confidence, unless you want lumps on your noggin.

Front Row, left to right—Rosalind Drexler, Grace Costello, Lou Leonard, Mary Hill, Alice Renner. Top Row—Sheila Pennette, Joan Fleck, Terry Tarantino, Dode Gregory, Mina Harris



**Girl Wrestler
At South Beach**

Grace 'Roughhouse' Costello, Hoboken's famous girl wrestler, will show her skill on the mat tonight at May's Hotel, South Beach, where she will meet John Fazio, light-weight wrestling champion, in an exhibition match.

Miss Costello has been wrestling all summer in the various New Jersey clubs, including the Atlantic City Auditorium. Usually she has a girl opponent but it is said she can handle herself just as well against a male. There is no admission charge to see tonight's exhibition.

**Plummer Will Have Chance
To Even Score With Zaharias****Gracie Costello, Hoboken Girl, to Make Pro Bow
Against Bessie Forbes**

Promoter Ralph Mondt announces the pairing of Lou Plummer, of Waco, Texas, with Chris Zaharias, Pueblo, Colo., Greek, for the feature event on Friday night's mat card at Columbia Park, in North Bergen. The two will meet in a one fall, one hour time limit affair.

The near riot caused by last week's bout between Plummer and Babe Zaharias forced Promoter Mondt to make this match. Plummer had Babe Zaharias in bad shape when the Greek dumped the Texan out of the ring and into the lap of Chris who had been disqualified in preliminary with Curley Donchin and who immediately let one go at Plummer's mouth, knocking the Texan cold and enabling brother Babe to win, as his opponent could not reenter the ring before the count of ten.

Plummer protested the verdict, but to no avail. He then went to Promoter Mondt and asked to be matched with both the Zaharias brothers, but to no avail as the Jer-

sey Commission would not allow such a bout and it was decided to arrange a match between the Texan and Chris. Brother Babe will be at the ringside to catch Chris, but the police will see that another free for all does not result.

In the semi-final Babe will be opposed to Abe Coleman. The popular Hebrew grappler knows how to handle the roughnecks and he will not allow the Greek to get away with anything.

A special bout is also listed. It will pair Grace Costello, a 19-year-old Hoboken girl who has had great success as an amateur but who will be making her debut as a professional, with Bessie Forbes, of Texas. Miss Costello has been training regularly in Fazio's Gym, in Hoboken, where she showed Promoter Mondt many tricks yesterday with the champion Miss Mildred Burke.

In the other bouts on the card the Italian Frank Marconi will face Joe Maynard, of Jamaica, and Sheriff Tom Hanley, of Texas, will oppose Henry Piers, of Holland.

**Zaharias Will Carry Battle To
Plummer in Hurry Friday Night**

"Lou Plummer is nothing but a blow-hard bully, that's all," Babe Zaharias was doing the talking and he was talking about his foeman in last week's fine event at Columbia Park.

"He isn't really tough," Zaharias continued, "and it's just too bad that the match ended the way it did—else I myself would have socked him into Columbia Park."

"Plummer is strictly a front runner. If he thinks he has you scared,

he's a tough hombre—but if you show him you're not afraid of him, he melts right away. I think my brother will crown him and crown him quickly Friday night. If Plummer thinks Chris is going to wage a defensive battle against him—he's crazy."

Brother Babe, in giving the tip-off that Chris will go right after Plummer when the gong sounds Friday night, isn't surprising anybody. Entirely too much happened when Plummer was socked outside the ring last week to predicate anything but a hurdy-gurdy of the first waters when the burpers tangle this week.

Babe Zaharias will be busy in the semi-final, too. His opponent will be Abe Coleman. The California Hebrew is not a roughneck, but he knows how to handle all types of adversaries. That is the reason why he is glad to get an opportunity to face the conqueror of Plummer. The bout will have a 30-minute time limit.

Girls On, Too

A match between girls is also on the card. The bout will pair Grace Costello of Hoboken with Bessie Forbes of Texas. Miss Costello is a newcomer among the females, but she has had a lot of experience as an amateur and Promoter Mondt, who saw her in workouts, states that she is a finished grappler. Miss Forbes is a veteran of the game and has established a great record among the females. The winner of the bout will probably be given a match with Champion Mildred Burke on a future card.

Frank Marconi the Ohio Italian, who still boasts an unblemished record, will appear in one of the preliminaries. He is to meet Joe Maynard, of Jamaica, in a 30-minute test.

*Hudson Dispatch
October 2, 1940*

Notices of Costello's career appeared regularly in the Hudson Dispatch, the Jersey Journal, the Jersey Observer, and the Staten Island Advance.

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Hoboken Girl Bids For Fame on Mat

Grace Costello, 19 Years Old, Makes Debut As "Pro" Wrestler Against Bessie Forbes

Grappling girls have been finding it difficult to push the matmen at Columbia Park into the background, but a raw recruit among them, 19-year-old Grace Costello of Hoboken, is confident she will surprise all campaigners, both masculine and feminine, when she makes her debut as a professional wrestler in Friday night's show at the Park.

Miss Costello, who has been a student of wrestling for some time, had progressed so far in her training a week ago that she asked the Park promoter, Ralph Mondt, to give her a chance against one of the top-notch girlie grapplers. She said she didn't care how tough the opposition was—as long as she got a chance.

Mondt hardly could have found any tougher, for he assigned Bessie Forbes, colorful cowgirl from Texas, to oppose Miss Costello. Miss Forbes is known as one of the roughest girls in the business.

The match will be a special attraction on a card featuring a tussle

between Lou Plummer of Texas and Chris Zaharias of Pueblo, Col. Plummer met "Babe" Zaharias last week, and a riot almost followed the Zaharias brothers' double-barreled assault on the Texan. "Babe" heaved Lou out of the ring; Chris smacked him, and the younger Zaharias got the match.

"Babe" will encounter Abie Coleman, the sawed-off shotgun of wrestling, in the half-hour semifinal, and no doubt will linger around the ringside to coach Chris, who aided him last week by words and action.

Other jousts pair Frank Marconi with Joe Maynard and Tom Hanley with Henry Piers.



FIRST LOCAL FEMALE GRAPPLER—The wrestling fad which has spread to the supposedly weaker sex has stricken Gracie Costello, Hoboken girl, who is shown above with her manager and trainer, John Fazio. Gracie will make her pro debut at Columbia Park, Friday night, when she tackles Bessie Forbes.

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Grace Costello (center) coaches some younger students in the art of wrestling.

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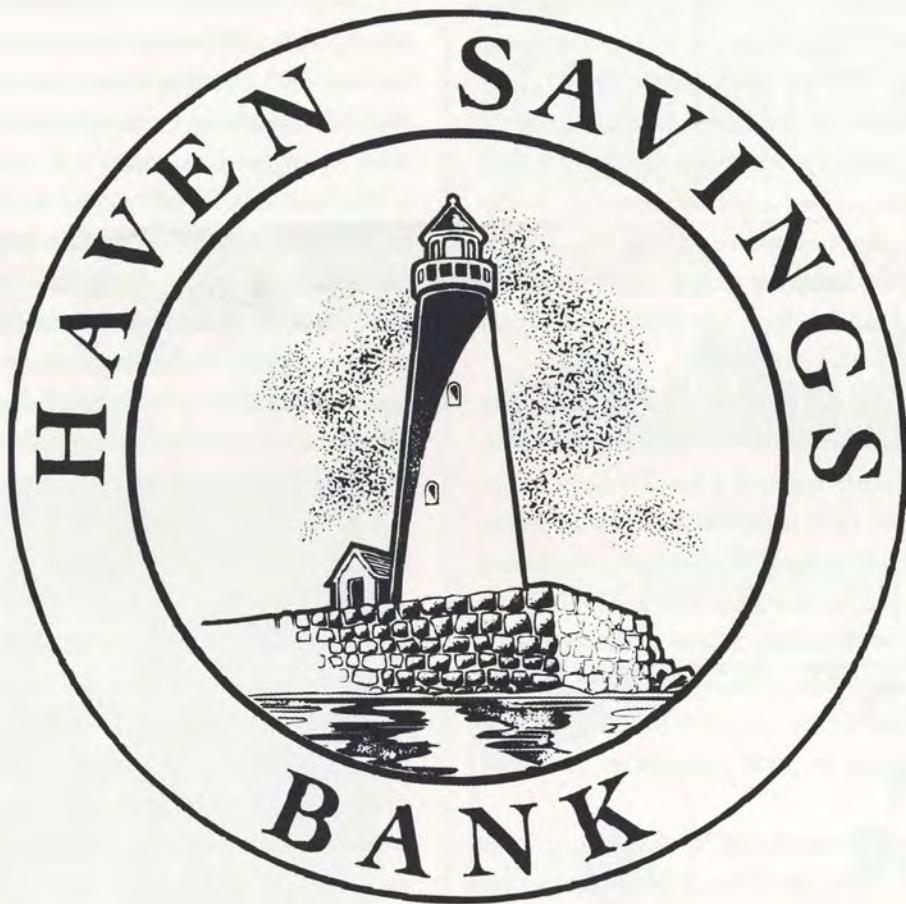
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80 Years in School

by Melvin Kiernan

Hoboken is a diverse community. Some families have lived here for only a few years; others for several generations. A new grocery store opens alongside a pharmacy run by the same family for 50 years or more. A professional renovating office space at the close of one century uncovers artifacts of a professional from the end of another century. In my family, a young woman moves from Florida to Hoboken, and, unbeknownst to her, rents an apartment on the same block where her great-great-great grandparents lived 90 years earlier.

My own family moved to Hoboken just after the Civil War, leaving New York City for the suburbs. One great-grandfather opened a local bakery shop, another commuted to a maintenance job in Manhattan. Both had left Ireland as teenagers orphaned in the Great Hunger, as had their wives. The couples met and married in America. These two couples — Michael Kiernan and Mary Reilly, Bernard Melvin and Margaret Finnerty — produced families strongly represented in local education for three generations.

The Kiernans were married in Williamsburg, now part of Brooklyn. They had five children, only two of whom survived infancy, and only the oldest, Eugene Henry, my grandfather, lived long enough to start a family. He was born in Jersey City in 1866. By 1870, the family was living in Hoboken, at what is now 310 Newark Street. Michael Kiernan died in 1872. In 1875, his widow married John Callaghan and shortly afterward the family moved to 317 Clinton Street, now part of the site of St. Mary Hospital. Both Eugene Henry Kiernan and his half-sister, Elizabeth Callaghan, were associated with the Hoboken Public Schools. Eugene Henry was graduated from Stevens Institute in 1887. After four years as a engineer with Waterman & Co. of Brooklyn, he was appointed vice principal of Hoboken High School, effective for the Fall term of 1891, at a salary of \$1,250 per year. At that time,

graduation from college was the only stated requirement for a principalsip. The high school was operating in rented space at Sixth and Park, in the building later known as the Martha Institute. My grandfather was also teaching the mathematics classes at the high school. In 1892, the high school graduated 36 students. In September 1893, Eugene Henry Kiernan became principal of #5 School, at Second and Clinton streets, at an annual salary of \$16,00. Teaching evening course for the foreign-born brought in an extra \$35 a month.

The Melvins were married in Greenwich Village in Manhattan in 1866 and moved to Hoboken just after their daughter Katherine was born in 1867. In the 1880s, the requirements for teaching in the primary grades were graduation from high school and completion of a brief city-run normal school preparation. Katherine completed these requirements, first in her class, and was placed on the waiting list in December 1885. She was assigned full-time to #5 School in November 1887, at a salary of \$25 a month.

At that time, Board of Education regulations provided that a female teacher could not be seen in public in the company of a man other than her father. She could not be out of the city overnight, even during vacation periods, without permission from the Board. She must resign immediately if she married (although how she would ever have had the chance to meet anyone to marry was not explained). Nevertheless, Katherine and Eugene were married in August 1893.

Eugene Kiernan resigned as principal in February 1900 and returned to his engineering career. While working on the construction of one of the railroad tunnels under the East River, he suffered an attack of caisson disease, "the bends." Disabled, he died in 1914.

My grandfather's half-sister, Elizabeth Callaghan always known as Lillie, began teaching in 1898, in #3 School, then located on Adams Street between Second and Third streets. She left teaching when she married in 1907.

A general attitude toward female teachers that still pervaded the system could be seen in the school

directories, which often referred to women teachers by their familiar names, such as "Kate" or "Lizzie," rather than using their more formal names.

Regulations regarding married teachers appear to have eased around the turn of the century, since Katherine Kiernan returned to teaching in the Fall of 1902. She was assigned first to an annex school operated on the top floor of City Hall, then to the third grade in #7 School at Park and Newark avenues, and later to the fourth grade in #9 School, at Second and Monroe Streets, where she continued to teach until, in failing health, she retired in June 1932. She died in November of that year.

My grandmother, Katherine Kiernan, taught the primary grades throughout her career. She also taught art and music and played the piano and violin. The family still has several of her paintings, and one of my cousins still plays her violin. Family



Katherine Kiernan taught art, music, and English.

stories connect her with teaching kindergarten classes in the new German school at Saints Peter and Paul, which opened in 1889. Grandmother also taught English to the new wave of Italian immigrant children in Hoboken early in the century. I can recall several local businessmen telling me that my grandmother had taught their parents English.

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One family story, perhaps apocryphal, places her in classes for German prisoners during World War I (although the facts more likely involved German nationals in citizenship classes). Several years ago, one of my cousins passed on to me a plate she said had been given to my grandmother by her German students. Perhaps Grandmother would have benefited from picking up some German from these students, since the inscription on the plate promises victory for “our glorious united leaders” Wilhelm II and Franz Josef.

At the start of the 20th century, the city’s schools were overflowing. The system was struggling to meet the growing population and the new technologies. The Board of Education debated such issues as having a telephone in each school, as well as bills for indoor plumbing. In October 1901, the Superintendent of Schools, A.J. Demarest, wrote in a local newspaper that the city had seven elementary schools, rented space for a high school, and at least eight “annexes,” some of them in vacant stores. These annexes, he said, held 20 classrooms serving more than 1,200 pupils, with class sizes ranging from 54 to 90. The school population was growing by 300 to 500 every year. “No teacher should be required to teach more than 40 pupils,” Demarest said.

At about that time, the three-year high school curriculum consisted of Arithmetic, Algebra, U.S. Constitution, Grammar, Dictation, Memory Selections, Elocution, Etymology, Composition, German, and Drawing (First Year); Algebra, Business Arithmetic, Metrics, Ancient and Medieval History, Rhetoric, British Literature, Physics, Composition, Bookkeeping, Mensuration, Elocution, Drawing, and German (Second Year); Algebra, Plain and Solid Geometry, Arithmetic, Modern History, American Literature, Composition, Elocution, German, and Drawing (Third Year).

Apparently, not all the students took all these courses or, for that matter, completed the three years. The first two years included courses to prepare for commercial and technical jobs. The three years offered academic preparation for a college

curriculum of the time. The three years of German surely reflected the dominant culture of the city.

In 1908, the Board of Education restricted qualifications for high school teachers to male applicants who were graduates of an approved normal school or held a bachelor’s degree and who had three years teaching experience. Qualifications for the lower grades were graduation from either a college or state normal school or graduation from high school with a county certificate. By the middle of the next decade, graduation from a state normal school or a bachelor’s degree was required for new hires. It would be another two decades before the state normal schools became full degree-granting colleges.

By the time of the Great War, the first two of the city’s elementary schools and the high school had been built. The school population peaked, although a floor was later added to the high school. Between 1910 and 1916, the high school’s enrollment increased from 338 to 722. Spanish was introduced into the curriculum in 1917, the same year the junior high school level was adopted.

The isolationist and anti-immigrant mood that followed World War I affected the city, its schools, and the curriculum — but not so much as did the problems of the next decade. The Depression brought hard times for schools as well as everywhere else in society. There was a ready supply of children, so the schools continued to operate. The need for teachers also continued, but there was no stable tax base to support them. While some neighboring communities had to resort to scrip to pay their teachers, Hoboken managed to pay its teachers in cash throughout the Depression. But raises were deferred, and married women were “encouraged” to resign to provide employment for men.

The teachers, generally assured of employment during the Depression, responded positively to the city’s many charitable organizations. One story among many records that the teachers at David E. Rue School initiated the practice of donating either the cost of altar breads at Saints Peter and Paul Church, assisting the heavily debt ridden parish and its newly-built church through the hard times.



Frank Kiernan taught Science at both Rue Junior High and Demarest.

The hardships of the Depression were replaced by the hardships of World War II, with resulting personnel changes in the schools. Once again, the Board sought out women to fill the vacancies left by drafted men.

At this distance, it is difficult to appreciate the strain the war placed on teachers, particularly high school teachers. There was so much more than the standard classroom material the teachers had to impart to students for whom graduation was an open door leading directly to the battlefields of Europe and the Pacific.

In those days, no one objected to starting classes with a prayer or to accommodating the religious observances of teachers and students. No one noticed when the school day started a little late to allow for attendance at morning Mass on Catholic holidays and First Fridays.

During the war, the teacher's role extended far outside the classroom or the class day. My father kept up a regular correspondence with former stu-

dents stationed on ships and battlefields around the globe. He and, I am sure, many others saw this as simply another facet of a role that never ended, counseling and encouraging or simply providing an open ear for boys, many not yet old enough to vote, as they expressed fears, doubts, and questions that could not be expressed to families or battlefield comrades. Some of these correspondences continued for many years after the war.

The teaching "bug" in my family did not end with my grandparents. Three of Eugene's and Katherine's five children survived infancy, and all three — Mary, Frank, and Melvin (my father) — taught in the Hoboken schools. My mother, Catherine Carey, was also a teacher in the Hoboken schools, as was Lillie Callaghan's daughter, Helen Crosset DeSapio.

Mary Kiernan, my aunt, began teaching part-time in 1915 and full-time in February 1917, with a certificate from Montclair Normal School. At first, she taught in #9 School but later, after bachelor's and master's degrees from Fordham, she taught algebra at Rue Junior High School. In the ten years before her retirement in June 1964, she was at Brandt School.

Mary Kiernan was lamed by polio when she was two years old. Her admission to Montclair came only after a prolonged argument and was an early victory for people with disabilities. The normal school curriculum included Physical Education, and the school's president ruled that, since she could not take or teach that subject, she could not be admitted. His decision was grudgingly reversed



Mary Kiernan taught algebra at Rue at Brandt.

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only after a series of letters from my grandmother to "friends" in Trenton and Washington. It seems Mrs. Kiernan's next-door neighbor was the mother of a friend of an official in the Cabinet of Governor and soon President Woodrow Wilson. Even so, my aunt's diploma carried the college president's handwritten "with the exception of Physical Education" added to the formula "has completed all the requirements."

Catherine Carey, my mother, attended Newark Normal School, now Kean University, and began her career in the Hoboken schools in 1921. She started at #9 School, moved to #1 School, then to the Boys Junior High, David E. Rue School, where she taught history. One of her students here was Frank Sinatra. She left teaching in 1935.

Frank Kiernan, my uncle, also attended Newark Normal School and, much later, received a bachelor's degree from Seton Hall University. He taught science in the Boys Junior High School and later at Demarest High School. For many years, he was moderator of the Glee Club at Rue School, and, at one point, dropped Frank Sinatra from the organization "because he couldn't sing." By the late 1950s, my uncle was disabled with Lou Gehrig's Disease and died in February 1961.

My father, B. Melvin Kiernan, received bachelor's and master's degrees from Seton Hall University and was appointed to a full-time position teaching mathematics in Rue School, the Boys Junior High, in September 1929, at a salary of \$1,600. In September 1942, he went to the high school to teach Latin. He was moderator of several senior classes, assisting with the class dramatic productions. As an indication of the affection — within the bounds of



Melvin Kiernan outside Demarest.

discipline — that the war produced between teacher and student, my father enjoyed being called ‘BM’ by the seniors of those years.

He was appointed Vice Principal in Rue School in April 1956 and was moved to Kealey School in September 1962, a transfer he learned about from a story in the morning newspaper. One indication of the classroom discipline and professionalism expected of teachers of that era is that he had a rule that male teachers had to wear long-sleeved, not short-sleeved, shirts under their jackets while in the classroom. My father died in January 1965.

My father’s aunt, Lillie Callaghan, taught in Hoboken from 1899 until her marriage in 1907, and her daughter Helen Joan Crosset DeSapio, a graduate of Newark Normal School, taught for some 30 years in Brandt School until her retirement in June 1964.

So, my family has many connections with the Hoboken schools. At least one member of my family was teaching in the system from 1885 to 1965, 80 years.

Teaching as a career did not die out in my family with my parents’ generation. Both my brother and I are teachers, as are several cousins, although none of us teaches in Hoboken. So, the tradition endures, and inspiration drawn from past family members now benefits new generations of students across the country and, I hope, has also started teaching traditions in the families of some of their students.

Our city is enriched by the many families who live here, some new to the community, others here for many generations. But at some time in history each family was a newcomer, a first generation. The strength of the city lies in the willingness of each of those first generations to stay, in the willingness of the older residents to welcome them, and in the willingness of their children and grandchildren to remain as city residents, adding their own family links to the past and the future, families of workers, merchants, and professionals, each with its own story to tell.



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As a past resident of Hoboken, I would like to share the life of my great-uncle and godfather, Frederick Hauser. He passed away over 25 years ago, but I believe his contribution to Hoboken and the state of New Jersey should not be forgotten. For those who still remember Colonel Hauser, I hope this biography will bring back some good memories of a wonderful man. For others, I hope this will enlighten you about a man who faithfully served his family, community, state, and, country.

Colonel Frederick Howard Hauser was born in Brooklyn, New York, on May 15, 1900. He was a graduate of Public School Number 6, Hoboken High School, and New York University, where he received his BA, MA, and Doctor of Jurisprudence degrees. In 1925, he married Edna Weihe of Hoboken and lived at 1000



A veteran of both wars, Colonel Frederick H. Hauser went on to practice law and later served in New Jersey State politics.

Hudson Street. A member and Bible school teacher at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Hoboken, he taught American history at Hoboken High School before becoming assistant to the Superintendent of Schools in Hoboken and Vice Principal of Hoboken High School.

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Colonel Hauser was a Counsellor-at-Law in New Jersey and New York, a member of the Hudson County and New Jersey Bar Associations, and the U.S. Judge Advocate Association. Colonel Hauser was a Professor of Property Law at the John Marshall Law School from 1929 to 1949. Throughout his entire professional career, he practiced law from an office located at 83 Washington Street.

"Uncle Fred" served his country in both World War I and World War II. In World War II, he was promoted from major to colonel, serving at that rank for 51 months. He was staff Judge Advocate of both the 78th and 44th Infantry Divisions and Staff Judge Advocate of the Coastal and Harbor defenses of New York, Philadelphia, Chesapeake Bay, and the entire southeastern United States. Colonel Hauser's service medals included the victory medals of both World Wars, American Defense, American Theatre, and Army Commendation.

From his positions as Commander of the Hoboken Post American Legion (1926-28) and Commander of Hudson County Committee American Legion (1928-29), he became State Vice-Commander of the New Jersey American Legion in 1930. Then, starting in 1961, he served for six years on the Executive Committee of National Legislative Conference. He became national Vice President in 1963 and National President in 1964.

Hauser was elected to the New Jersey General Assembly in November 1947 and served 10 two-year terms. In 1966, he was Speaker of the General Assembly and, upon the absence of the Governor and the President of the State Senate, served as Acting Governor on occasion. He was also Chairman of the New Jersey Law

Continued on page 19.

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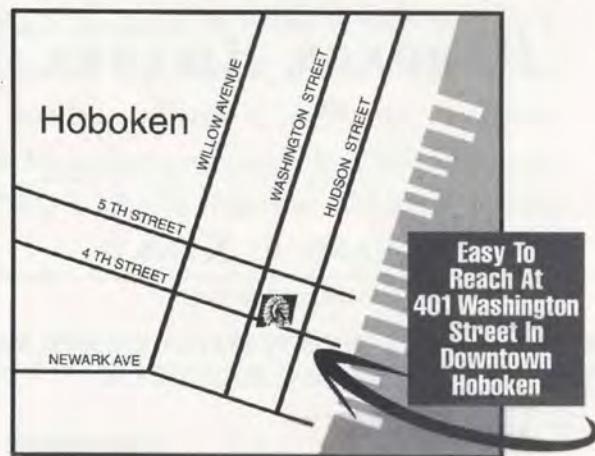
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Hoboken Assemblyman Fred Hauser in his first term, (far right,) signs the assembly register. Assembly Attaché William Brooks at left calls the roll. Photo from January 13, 1948.

Revision and Legislative Services Commission from 1960 to 1967. In the latter year, he was elected State Senator from Hudson County for a four-year term.

Hauser was also a mason, an Elk, a member of Pi Kappa Alpha, the New Jersey Education Association, and the U.S. Reserve Officers Association. He was President of the New York University Athletic Association; President of the New York University YMCA Council; Editor in Chief of *The New Yorker*, the university's newspaper; and a reporter on the *New York World*.

Colonel Frederick Hauser passed away while on vacation in California on August 18, 1975. May he never be forgotten as someone who loved and served Hoboken far beyond the call of duty.

Alan Nelson

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Hoboken grappler Grace "Roughhouse" Costello takes her opponent to the mat. Photo courtesy of the Cutillo family.

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